GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:491
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
MIGRATION OF RURAL YOUTH
Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether traditional rural professions are gradually dwindling in the country and rural youth are migrating to cities as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government and the State Governments are jointly formulating any scheme to revive the traditional rural industries and to check exodus of unemployed youths to cities; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)to(c): No, Sir. Rural Youth are migrating to cities due to various reasons. There is no specific new scheme jointly being formulated with State Governments for revival of traditional industries. However, the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing, besides promoting khadi, small scale industries and coir industries, two credit linked subsidy schemes for employment generation, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) for generation of additional employment opportunities in the country in addition to the State Governments' efforts. One of the main objectives of both these programmes is to facilitate generation of additional employment in the local (rural or urban) areas of each State. REGP is implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and State/ Union Territories Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) to assist eligible applicants in setting up village industries in the rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000 and the PMRY through the Governments of State/Union Territories, in both rural and urban areas, for providing self employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. State-wise number of employment opportunities generated under REGP (since its inception in April 1995) and PMRY (since its inception in October 1993) as on 31 March 2007 are given in Annex-I and Annex-II, respectively.

Further, a new Central Sector scheme called "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)" has been launched in October 2005 for development of traditional clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sectors. The Scheme envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.